

A serene forest scene with a dirt path leading through tall, slender trees. Sunlight filters through the dense green canopy, creating a soft, hazy atmosphere. The path is dappled with light and shadow, leading the eye into the distance.

PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

Our Worship series for Spring/Summer 2018

A dandelion seed head is shown in the lower-left quadrant, with several seeds blowing away towards the upper-right. The background is a solid, light green color. The text 'GALATIANS' is written in large, semi-transparent, light green capital letters across the bottom. The word 'free' is written in a white, cursive script font, overlapping the right side of the 'GALATIANS' text.

GALATIANS free

Galatians 6:6-16

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Galatians: Free

2:19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

The Law (behaviorism) revealed that I am dead in my sins and in absolute need of rescue.

2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us

We were included in Christ's death so that our debts could be paid, and included in His resurrection so that we can now live.

Galatians: Free

3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

We are not only saved by sheer grace, we live and are loved daily by grace, not by our performance.

3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

We are all in the exact same need of Jesus, and, once in him, are all equal co-heirs.

Galatians: Free

4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

We have been eternally adopted into God’s family, given his Spirit, love, name, power and inheritance.

5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

We are totally set free FROM the penalty of sin and FOR the gift of Love.

Galatians: Free

5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Our behavior doesn't change God's love for us, but God's love for us changes our behavior. We love because we've are loved.

God's Spirit inside of us organically re-creates us back into His image

Galatians: Free

We are more sinful than we dare face
More Loved than we dare dream
More instrumental than we dare imagine.

Reaping and Sowing

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Planting Belief, not Behavior.

What truth and hope are you planting into your heart?

“We will do what we believe”

Reaping and Sowing: “Self”

⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh
will from the flesh reap corruption...

“GIGO”

Not simply saying “don’t put naughty stuff in your heart”
Galatians has been (and still is) about Legalism vs Grace

Reaping and Sowing: “Self”

⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...

What I'm Planting

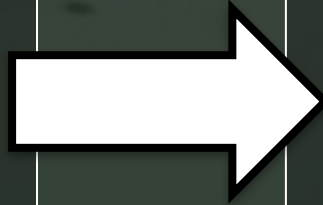
- 1) Satisfaction is found in myself and in this world.
- 2) I am alone.
- 3) God is angry at me, or at least disappointed in me.
- 4) Evil will overcome me.

Reaping and Sowing: “Self”

⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...

What I'm Planting

- 1) Satisfaction is found in myself and in this world.
- 2) I am alone.
- 3) God is angry at me, or at least disappointed in me.
- 4) Evil will overcome me.



What I'm Harvesting

“corruption” = futility & death
(Galatians 5:19-21)

- 1) Heaviness under the load.
- 2) Loneliness.
- 3) Using others for myself (v13)
- 4) Anger and depression.

Reaping and Sowing: “Spirit”

^{8b} but the one who sows to the Spirit
will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

What I'm Planting

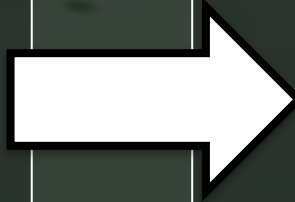
- 1) I am a New Creation (v.15)
- 2) I am complete, loved and
satisfied in Jesus
- 3) I will never be alone
- 4) God is smiling over me

Reaping and Sowing: “Spirit”

^{8b} but the one who sows to the Spirit
will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

What I'm Planting

- 1) I am a New Creation (v.15)
- 2) I am complete, loved and satisfied in Jesus
- 3) I will never be alone
- 4) God is smiling over me



What I'm Harvesting

“life” = fullness, value
(Galatians 5:22-23)

- 1) Freedom
- 2) Love
- 3) Open-handed
- 4) Serve the way I've been served

Reaping and Sowing:

Outline from Jonathan Edwards' first sermon in 1720 at 18 years old

Spirit Planting

- 1) My bad things will turn out for good.
- 2) My good things will never be taken away.
- 3) My best things are yet to come.

VS.

Self Planting

- 1) My bad things will overtake me.
- 2) My good things were never really that good.
- 3) My best things are behind me.

Gospel Producing Outward

⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians:

Saved **By**: Grace

Saved **From**: Sin, Fear, Death

Saved **For**: Love



“We are saved by faith alone, but not a faith that is alone.”
John Calvin (1547) and Martin Luther (1577)

Gospel Producing Outward

^{6:7} Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Pastors/Leaders:

- 1) In the same need
- 2) In “fellowship” with
- 3) Don’t deify
- 4) Don’t demonize

Brother and Sister:

- 1) In Community
- 2) Treat each other as family.

The Community:

- 1) Whoever God has put in your life
- 2) “The least of these”
(Matt 25:40)
- 3) People, not projects